

BLM Office: Roswell Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: Right-of-Way for installation of a buried fiber optic line and some copper cable within the Highway 54 right-of-way boundaries.

Location of Proposed Action:

T. 9 S., R. 9 E., NMPM (Lincoln County)

Section 3: Lot 3, Lot 4, , SWNW, NWSW;

Section 4: NESE, SWSE;

Section 8: SESE;

Section 9: NESW, NWSW, SWSW;

Section 17: NENE, NWNE, SWNE, SENW;

Section 19: NENE, SWNE, SENE, SESW, NWSE, SWSE;

Section 30: NENW, SENW.

T. 10 S., R.8 E., NMPM (Lincoln County)

Section 1: NWSE, SWSE;

Section 12: NWNE, SWNE, SENW, NESW;

Section 13: SENW, NESW, SESW;

Section 24: NENW, SWNW, SENW, NWSW, SWSW;

Section 25: NWNW, SWNW, NWSW, SWSW;

Section 35: SESE.

T. 11 S., R. 9 E., NMPM (Otero County)

Section 3: Lot 6, 7 and 10;

Section 10: NENW, SENW, NESW, SWSW, SESW;

Section 15: NWNW, SWNW, NWSW, SWSW;

Section 21: NENE, SENE, NESE, SESE;

Section 22: NWNW;

Section 27: SWNW, NWSW;

Section 28: NENE, SENE.

Description of Proposed Action:.

Tularosa Basin Telephone Company plans to place a 24 fiber optic cable and some copper cable across BLM administered lands in the Las Cruces Field Office and the Roswell Field Office along the east side of Highway 54. The cable will be placed parallel to Highway 54 within the highway right-of-way and 5 feet off an adjacent US West right-of-way. The proposed line will be placed by direct plowing for a total length of 16.838 miles with 12.709 miles (45,100 feet in Lincoln and 22,000 feet in Otero) administered by the Roswell Field Office and the Las Cruces Field Office. The proposed line will be constructed in accordance with the Standard Stipulations for Telephone Lines in the Roswell Field Office

The project beginning point is approximately 3,300 feet north of the BLM Lincoln County boundary where it will connect to an existing fiber and terminate 1,597 feet south of milepost 97.

Per IM No. 2001-080 the right-of-way would be issued for a ten year maximum term.

A previous cultural survey revealed the occurrence of 4 sites.

LA 120972: MP 117 Station 919 Highway right-of-way  
LA 120973: MP 116.3 Station 51+792 Highway Right-of-way  
\*LA 128684: MP 114.2 Station 48+895 BLM/Roswell  
LA 114462: MP 108 Station 39+125 Highway Right-of-way

\*Per Daisy Levine, in reference to LA 128684, there are no archaeological features within the highway right-of-way.

At the other three sites recommendation was made that the proposed fiber optic line be placed as close as possible to the eastern edge of the pavement of US 54, not to exceed 15 feet from the edge of the pavement. Recommendation was also made to have an archaeologist present at all three locations to monitor during construction. If cultural material is uncovered during trenching for the line placement, the archaeologist will stop the construction and notify Daisy Levine, Highway archaeologist.

#### PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW.

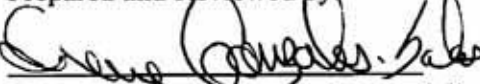
The proposed action is consistent with the approved Roswell Resource Area Management Plan and is consistent with Bureau policy and guidance.

The proposed action is consistent with State and local government programs, plans, zoning, and applicable regulations. The land is suitable for the proposed use and would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

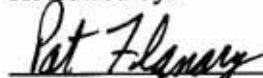
#### PART II: NEPA REVIEW

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, E (12). The proposed action has been reviewed and determined that none of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Prepared and Reviewed by

  
Irene Gonzales-Salas, Realty Specialist      5-18-01  
Date

Reviewed by:

  
Pat Flanary, Archaeologist      5-18-01  
Date

Concur:

  
Lorraine Salas, Realty Specialist

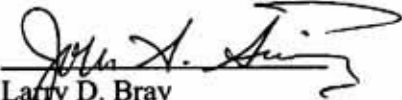
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(see FAX dated 5/3/01 from  
Lorraine Salas)

III. DECISION.


I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved Roswell Resource Management Plan and is consistent with Bureau policy and guidance and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to allow the right-of-way as described in the right-of-way application, **for 10 years (IM No. 2001-080 dated 01-24-01)**, with an option to renew, under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, subject to the terms and conditions in 43 CFR 2801; rental payments as determined by 43 CFR 2803.1-2 and **IM No. 2001-080 dated 01-24-01.**

Compliance and Monitoring: The construction phase of this proposed action and subsequent operational phases will be monitored as per regulation.

  
for: Larry D. Bray  
Assistant Field Manager  
Lands and Minerals

5/18/2001

Date

  
T. R. Kreager  
Assistant Field Manager  
Resources

5/18/01